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Sussex Home Builder Arrested for Racketeering

Wilmington, DE – Today the Department of Justice announced the arrest yesterday of a Delaware building contractor on a host of criminal charges in a home construction fraud scheme that allegedly took place between 2003 and 2007. Andrew Jones, also known as “Andre Jones,” was indicted on October 27, 2008 by a New Castle County Grand Jury on 42 counts, including Racketeering, Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering, Theft of \$100,000 or More, New Home Construction Fraud, Home Improvement Fraud, Issuing a Bad Check, Contractor’s Unlawful Retention of Funds, and Falsifying Business Records. The indictment follows an investigation by the Department’s Fraud and Consumer Protection Division. The criminal activity took place in all three Delaware counties, but was primarily concentrated in Sussex County.

Along with Andrew Jones, the October 27 indictment also charges Jason James with Theft and New Home Construction Fraud. James was not charged with Racketeering, though he was named as a co-conspirator with Jones. Together, Jones and James operated a company named Bavari Inc. that entered into contracts with prospective homeowners to build new homes in Sussex and Kent Counties. The indictment alleges that Bavari Inc. and Jones stole more than \$470,000 from homeowners and various sub-contractors who worked for them.

Jones was arrested in Sussex County by a Delaware Department of Correction Probation Officer and custody was turned over to Delaware State Police at Troop 4. His bail was set at \$156,000 secured. He has recently been living and doing business in Philadelphia under a company named “Jepulte.” Jones had been sought last week in Philadelphia by a joint operation of the Delaware Department of Justice and the Philadelphia Police Department Financial Crimes Unit.

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